

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, October 12, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Ever present Lord God in our midst, You have exhorted us: "Be hospitable to one another without complaining." Make this House a place of hospitality. Be with our guides, our guards, and all who create an environment here.

Throughout our days, Lord, there is a movement within, from hostility to hospitality. You help us determine our relationship to other people.

Life today is very complex. Yet when we reflect on the kindness we have enjoyed from others and we can face the stranger within ourselves, we begin to see in Your creation a free and friendly space that always welcomes the newborn, the estranged, the sick and the immigrant.

Let this place and all the institutions of this Nation, especially our schools and hospitals, be caring places and careful to meet people on their own terms.

For You, our God, hear us and welcome us as we are today and forever. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SKELTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4259. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Museum of the American Indian of the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5164. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to require reports concerning defects in motor vehicles or tires or other

motor vehicle equipment in foreign countries, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3069. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to provide for redevelopment of the Southeast Federal Center in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 5239. An act to provide for increased penalties for violations of the Export Administration Act of 1979, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3244) "An Act to combat trafficking of persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and slavery-like conditions, in the United States and countries around the world through prevention, through prosecution and enforcement against traffickers, and through protection and assistance to victims of trafficking."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2917. An act to settle the land claims of the Pueblo of Santo Domingo.

S. Con. Res. 131. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland that led to the creation of the independent trade union Solidarność, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 148. Concurrent resolution to provide for the disposition and archiving of the records, files, documents, and other materials of joint congressional committees on inaugural ceremonies.

S. Con. Res. 149. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of H.R. 3244.

The message also announced that in accordance with sections 1928a–1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly during the Second Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, to be held in Berlin, Germany, November 17–22, 2000—

the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY);

the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON);

the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES); and

the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI).

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 one-minutes on each side.

## SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, our economy is good, interest rates are low and we have a record budget surplus. Due to the sound fiscal policies of Republicans, we have been able to pay off \$354 billion in public debt and will completely eliminate it by 2012.

That is why Republicans are committed to using 90 percent of the next year's Federal budget surplus to pay off the national debt while protecting the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. That leaves us with 10 percent of the surplus to boost our already substantial \$600 billion commitment to our national priorities such as education, defense and health research.

Specifically, we will use half the money to strengthen education with the flexibility, funding and support to give our children the world's best schools. In addition, we will provide a prescription drug benefit to seniors in need now, not 5 or 10 years from now.

Republicans have made education funding a top priority, providing more money than ever before. And most importantly, we have cut the checks with fewer strings being attached. Currently, Washington provides 7 percent of the Nation's education funding but provides 40 percent of the regulations. We have made a real dent in removing some of these onerous, bureaucratic regulations. By eliminating our national debt, we will secure America's future for our children and grandchildren.

## TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE U.S.S. "COLE"

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the U.S.S. *Cole*, an Aegis destroyer, while being refueled in the enemy port of Aden was attacked by suicide terrorists. There were five sailors who lost their lives. One is missing. Approximately 30 have been injured.

This is the latest crime to be added to the list of deadly terrorist attacks against our fellow countrymen. It is terrible that anyone would sink so low.